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Borough of Epsom and Ewell

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

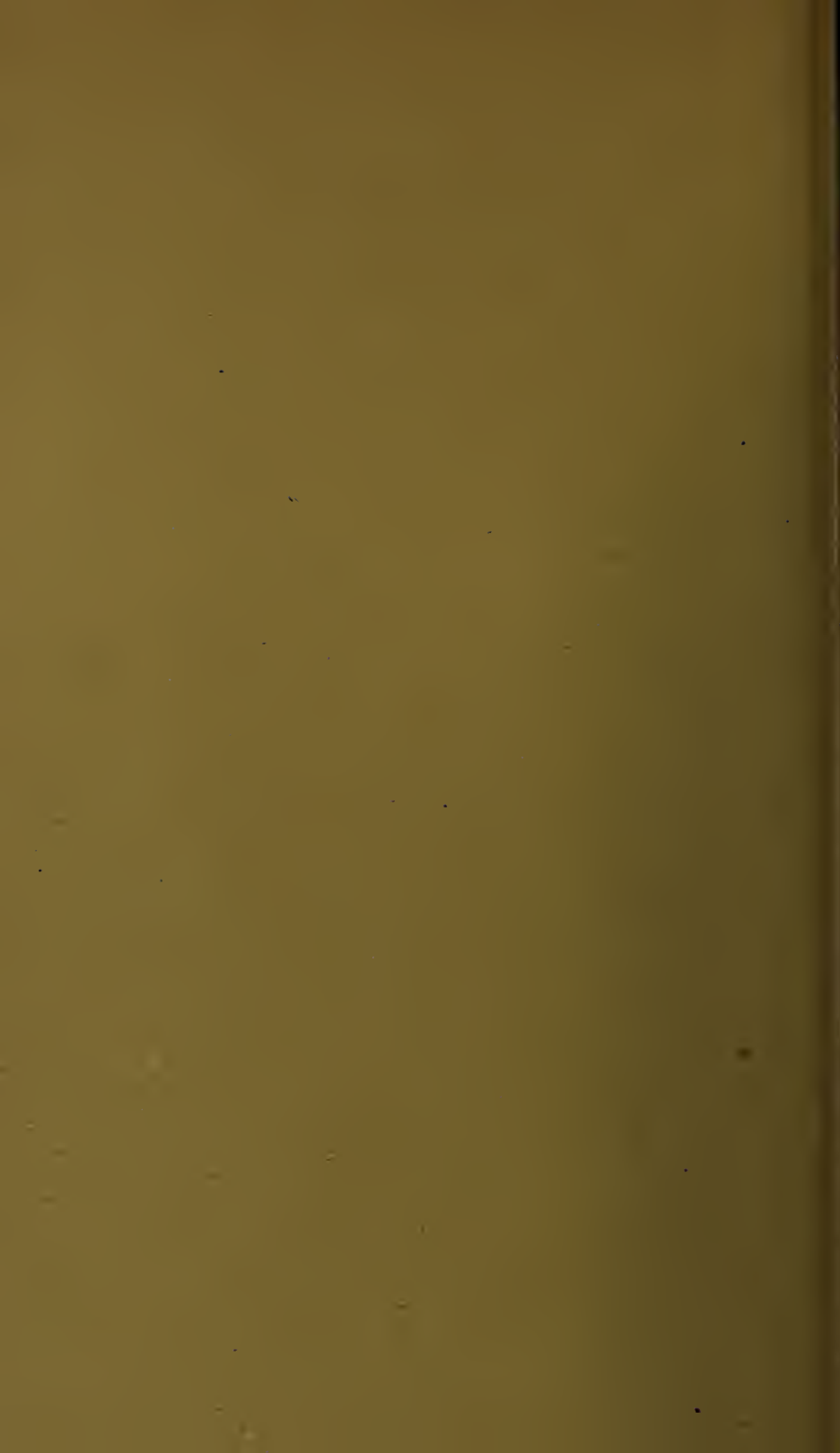
For the Year 1946

TOGETHER WITH THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.



Borough of Epsom and Ewell

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OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

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OF THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT.,  
WEST HILL HOUSE,  
WEST HILL,  
EPSOM.

September, 1947.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
Borough of Epsom and Ewell.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1946, which has been prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 13/47.

The vital statistics of the district for the year are satisfactory. The infant mortality rate remains very low, and the death rate from tuberculosis has reached a record low level. In this connection it is a pleasure to be able to note the Council has been able to resume its policy of giving sympathetic consideration to the rehousing of families with a tuberculous member in an infectious or potentially infectious condition, housed in circumstances favourable to the spread of infection in the family.

Legislation which will make important changes in the public health work has been enacted during the year, and some of the effects which the National Health Service Act will produce on the functions of this authority can now be estimated. Under Part II of the Act the Council will lose its remaining responsibility in hospital administration, in that the Cuddington Isolation Hospital, on whose Joint Board the Council is represented, will be transferred on the appointed day in 1947 to the charge of the Regional Hospital Board. Under Part III of the Act the duty to provide an Ambulance Service will now fall on the County Council as the local health authority, as will the responsibility for securing immunisation against diphtheria and vaccination against smallpox. Other services mentioned in Part III of the Act, such as those dealing with the care of mothers and young children, midwifery, health visiting, home nursing, and the provision of domestic help, are in this district already under the administration of the County Council. Other legislation includes the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, which require the compulsory heat treatment of all ice-cream unless produced from what is known as a "complete cold mix powder." Shortage of equipment and practical difficulties in administrative control may prevent the regulations from being fully effective at once, but the ultimate result should be satisfactory.

I take this opportunity of recording my appreciation of the work of my own staff and that of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. This applies to all members, whether technical, clerical or outdoor staff, every one of whom has shown great keenness and co-operation.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,  
Your obedient Servant,

CYRUS IVE,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

# Borough of Epsom and Ewell

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## STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

### *Medical Officer of Health:*

CYRUS IVE, M.B., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.),  
D.P.H.

### *Chief Sanitary Inspector:*

†WM. H. C. HAGGER, M.R.San.I., F.S.I.A.

### *Additional Sanitary Inspectors:*

\*†L. H. GRACE, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

†S. J. T. WOOD, M.S.I.A.

†H. W. ELLIS, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

### *Staff of the Scabies Treatment Clinic:*

Miss E. HAUXWELL, S.R.N.

H. GARMAN. (Part time.)

### *Medical Officer of Health's Clerical Staff:*

Senior Clerk: C. H. ARGENT.

Shorthand Typist: Miss L. W. DAVIS.

### *Chief Sanitary Inspector's Clerical Staff and Outside Staff:*

Chief Clerk: H. T. J. WOOLFORD, A.R.San.I.

Shorthand Typist: Miss D. D. WOOD.

Clerk: C. W. BAILEY. (Commenced duties 9-9-46.)

Junior Clerk: D. BRISK. (H.M. Forces 22-9-45.)

Junior Clerk: M. A. FORSHAW. (Temporary. Commenced duties 8-10-45.)

### *General Assistants and Mortuary Attendants:*

W. GOODENOUGH and J. STEPHENS.

Rodent Officer's Assistant: A. E. READ.

(The Medical Officer of Health and his clerical staff act in a similar capacity for the Dorking and Leatherhead Urban Districts and for the Dorking and Horley Rural District.)

\* Holds Sanitary Science Certificate of The Royal Sanitary Institute.

† Holds The Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

TABLE I.—COMPARATIVE BIRTH-RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN THE YEAR 1946 :—

	<i>England and Wales.</i>	<i>Borough of Epsom &amp; Ewell.</i>
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.		
BIRTHS—		
Live Births ... ..	19.1	15.8
Still Births ... ..	0.53	0.33
DEATHS—		
All Causes ... ..	11.5	9.1
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ... ..	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	0.02	—
Diphtheria ... ..	0.01	—
Influenza ... ..	0.15	0.07
Smallpox ... ..	—	—
Measles... ..	—	—
NOTIFICATIONS—		
Typhoid Fever ... ..	0.01	—
Paratyphoid Fever ... ..	0.02	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..	0.05	0.03
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1.38	1.00
Whooping Cough ... ..	2.28	1.31
Diphtheria ... ..	0.28	0.10
Erysipelas ... ..	0.22	0.37
Smallpox ... ..	—	—
Measles ... ..	3.92	4.15
Pneumonia ... ..	0.89	1.21
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.		
DEATHS under 1 year of age ... ..	43.0	26.2
DEATHS from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ... ..	4.4	—
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still).		
MATERNAL MORTALITY—		
Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis ... ..	0.31	—
Other Maternal Causes ... ..	1.06	2.75
NOTIFICATIONS—		
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	9.68	29.33

# Borough of Epsom and Ewell

## Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1946

### 1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS FOR THE AREA.

Area (acres) ... ..	8,427
Population (Census 1931) ... ..	35,231
Population (estimated mid-year 1946) ... ..	67,770
Density (persons per acre) ... ..	8.04
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate	
Books at 31st December, 1946 ... ..	16,353
Rateable value at 31st December, 1946 ... ..	£695,093
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ... ..	£2,845

The district is a diamond shaped area situated in the central part of the County of Surrey. Its southern boundaries reach the lower slopes of the North Downs. To the north it merges into the built-up area of Greater London. On the east it is separated from the neighbouring district by Nonsuch Park, and on the west by Epsom Common. It is particularly fortunate in possessing a large amount of public and private open space, some of which is in its natural state, and some developed as recreation grounds and parks. The subsoil of the southern third is chalk, and of the remainder clay, save for a narrow strip between these areas in which the Tertiary sands appear. The Hogsmill stream rises in Ewell village in springs derived from the chalk, and traverses the district in a north-easterly direction.

The area is mainly residential in character, a large proportion of the working population taking advantage of easy access to London. Hospitals, racing stables, transport undertakings, and an increasing number of light industries create local employment.

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

	<i>Total.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
<i>Live Births:—</i>				
Total live births	1,069	565	504	Birth Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population 15.8
Legitimate ...	1,029	547	482	
Illegitimate ...	40	18	22	
<i>Still Births:—</i>				
Total still births	22	15	7	Rate per 1,000 total live and still births 20.2
Legitimate ...	22	15	7	
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—	
<i>Deaths (net) ...</i>	617	309	308	Crude death rate ... 9.1

*Deaths of Infants under**1 year of age:—*

Total infant	<i>Total.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
deaths	28	15	13	
Legitimate ...	26	15	11	
Illegitimate ...	2	—	2	
Death Rate of all infants per 1,000 live births				26.2
Death Rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				25.5
Death Rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				50.0

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis...	—	—
Other Maternal Causes ...	3	2.75
	3	2.75

Deaths from:—

Measles (all ages) ...	—
Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	—
Cancer (all ages) ...	94

Table II shows a comparison of vital statistics for the district since 1931, with the figures for England and Wales during the same period.

## BIRTHS.

Live births accredited to the area by the Registrar General numbered 1,069, of which 565 were of males and 504 of females, representing a birth rate of 15.8 per 1,000 of the civilian population, compared with the rate of 19.1 for England and Wales. The local birth rate is artificially lowered by the presence of the London County Council Hospitals, whose inmates are included in the resident population, but who make little contribution to the reproductive life of the community. Reference to Table II shows a considerable rise in birth rate compared with the previous year.

Twenty-two still-births were registered during the year, giving a still-birth rate of 0.33, compared with the rate of 0.53 per thousand population for England and Wales.

TABLE II.—COMPARATIVE BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

Period.	Average Annual Birth Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population (Annual Rates 1940—46)		Average Annual Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population. (Annual Rates 1940—46)		Average Annual Death Rate of Children under 1 year age per 1,000 live birth (Annual Rates 1940—46)	
	England and Wales.	Epsom and Ewell.	England and Wales.	Epsom and Ewell.	England and Wales.	Epsom and Ewell.
1931—1940	14.9	12.6	12.2	7.3	58	41
1940	14.6	13.2	14.3	9.1	55	30.6
1941	14.2	12.1	12.9	10.2	59	37.1
1942	15.8	16.0	11.6	9.4	49	34.6
1943	16.5	17.4	12.1	10.6	49	35.8
1944	17.6	16.3	11.6	9.9	46	33.5
1945	16.1	13.0	11.4	9.1	46	31.8
1946	19.1	15.8	11.5	9.1	43	26.2



## DEATHS.

The deaths registered in the area after correction for inward and outward transfers numbered 617. This represents a crude death rate of 9.1 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, compared with the figure of 11.5 for England and Wales.

In Table II will be found crude annual deaths rates covering the period 1931-1946. A marked rise will be noticed to have occurred in 1940 and to have persisted in subsequent years, whereas the corresponding figures for England and Wales show a small but steady decline. The explanation of this local increase lies in administrative arrangements in the Registrar General's office, whereby at the outbreak of war alterations were made in the statistical treatment of transferable deaths to meet the abnormal conditions caused by evacuation. Up to that time the deaths of persons dying in hospitals or institutions were assigned to their place of permanent residence. Under the new arrangement the deaths of many persons occurring in hospitals or institutions were assigned to the area in which the death occurred. The effect of the change was particularly noticeable in this district, which has a large hospital population whose place of residence is normally in one or other of the metropolitan boroughs. There is no evidence that there has been any increase in the death rate of permanent residents. This is confirmed by the fact that the war-time death rates have remained steady, although at the higher level mentioned above. The death rate remains substantially below the figure for England and Wales.

The causes of death are set out in Table III.

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BOROUGH OF EPSOM AND EWELL.

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ... ..	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ... ..	6	3	9
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	2	1	3
8. Syphilitic Disease ... ..	6	1	7
9. Influenza ... ..	1	4	5
10. Measles ... ..	—	—	—
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ... ..	—	—	—
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis ... ..	1	—	1
13. Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (males)	6	—	6
13A. Cancer of Uterus (females) ... ..	—	4	4
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ... ..	8	6	14
15. Cancer of Breast ... ..	1	6	7
16. Cancer of all other sites ... ..	37	26	63
17. Diabetes ... ..	2	2	4
18. Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions ... ..	26	46	72
19. Heart Disease ... ..	103	90	193
20. Other Diseases of the Circulatory System ... ..	13	14	27
21. Bronchitis ... ..	14	11	25
22. Pneumonia ... ..	8	18	26
23. Other Respiratory Diseases... ..	3	4	7
24. Ulceration of the Stomach or Duodenum... ..	3	—	3
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ..	—	—	—
26. Appendicitis ... ..	—	2	2
27. Other Digestive Diseases ... ..	6	9	15
28. Nephritis ... ..	5	3	8
29. Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis ... ..	—	—	—
30. Other Maternal Causes ... ..	—	3	3
31. Premature Birth ... ..	5	5	10
32. Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease ... ..	10	7	17
33. Suicide ... ..	4	5	9
34. Road Traffic Accidents ... ..	1	1	2
35. Other Violent Causes ... ..	5	6	11
36. All Other Causes ... ..	33	31	64
	309	308	617

## INFANT MORTALITY.

The deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 28, this total including 15 males and 13 females. The infant mortality rate for the year is 26.2 per 1,000 live births. The rate for England and Wales is 43. Ten of the 28 deaths were registered as being due to prematurity, and recent work has proved that, with proper facilities, a number of premature infants can be reared who would otherwise not have survived. To this end a somewhat elaborate system of buildings and staffing is required. When welfare and hospital authorities are in a position to supply these, an even greater fall in the infant mortality rate may be expected.

## 2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

During the year Public Health Laboratory service has been established to replace the emergency service set up during the war. The service is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health. A local laboratory of the service is working in temporary quarters in West Hill House, West Hill, Epsom. During the year 1946 the number of specimens sent by practitioners in this district was as follows:

For the diagnosis of Diphtheria ...	...	...	74
„ „ „ „ Tuberculosis ...	...	...	82
„ „ „ „ Enteric Fever ...	...	...	43
„ „ „ „ Haemolytic Streptococcal			
		infections	167
„ „ „ „ Venereal Diseases ...	...	...	8

The laboratory also examines and reports on the bacteriological conditions of samples of milk, food and potable water submitted by the Council's Public Health Department. Details of samples are as follows:

Water ...	...	...	...	26
Milk ...	...	...	...	69

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(1) INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Ambulances maintained by the Cuddington Isolation Hospital, Banstead (telephone Vigilant 0047), are used for the removal of cases of infectious disease.

(2) NON-INFECTIOUS AND ACCIDENT CASES.—The Council maintains two ambulances at Langton Avenue, Ewell (telephone Ewell 5395 and 1852), for the conveyance of such cases. Accident cases are conveyed free: for other cases a charge of 7/6 is made for journeys within the district boundaries, plus a charge of 1/- per mile for journeys outside the boundaries.

The Council's Ambulance Service will ultimately be transferred to the administration of the Surrey County Council under the provisions of the National Health Service Act.

In addition the Epsom Ambulance Service, a private hire firm, of West Street, Epsom (Telephone Epsom 745), maintains two ambulances with a staff of drivers sufficiently large to provide day and night service. The charge is based on mileage at 1/- per mile.

### NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) GENERAL NURSING.—The greater part of this work is undertaken by two Nursing Associations operating in the district. The Epsom District Nursing Association maintains four nurses at 36, Temple Road, Epsom (Epsom 1153) and the Ewell District Nursing Association employs three nurses at 2, Bypass Road, Ewell (Ewell 2022). Both these associations are supported financially partly by members' subscriptions and partly by donations. Nurses are available for non-members on payment of a fee.

(b) NURSING OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE. There is no special provision for the nursing of such cases.

The National Health Service Act places on Local Health Authorities, in this case the Surrey County Council, the duty to provide nurses, employed either by themselves or by voluntary organisations, to attend persons who require nursing in their own houses. The service to be provided will be free of charge to the users of it. The high standard of organisation and work achieved by the local Nursing Associations make it reasonable to assume that they will continue their important functions as agents of the Local Health Authority.

#### MEDICAL LOAN DEPOT.

A Medical Loan Depot is organised by the Epsom, Ewell & Stoneleigh Division of the British Red Cross. The depot is situated at West Hill House, Epsom, and is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11—1 p.m. I am indebted to Mrs. D. Hutt, Divisional Secretary, for the information that 159 articles were loaned to residents of the Borough in 1946.

The articles are hired at a small fee on the recommendation of the medical practitioner or nurse. The charge is waived in cases where it would cause hardship. The equipment has a wide range of all that is necessary in Home Nursing, and includes water beds, bed tables and rests, and wheel chairs. This service fulfills an important need, particularly at a time when admission to hospital is becoming more difficult.

#### CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

(a) MATERNITY, CHILD WELFARE AND TUBERCULOSIS.—The County Council is the responsible authority for these services. County Council Health Centres are situated at 44, Waterloo Road, Epsom, and at Ewell Court House, off Kingston Road, Ewell. The Epsom Health Centre also serves as the tuberculosis dispensary for Epsom and Ewell, Leatherhead and part of Banstead.

(b) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.—Under the National Health Service Act the administrative responsibility for providing facilities for treatment will pass to the County Council. In the meantime an effective service is maintained by the co-operation of the County Council with the Borough Council, as a result of which use is made of County Council clinic premises and staff by the Medical Officer of Health. Valuable help has again been given during the year by voluntary helpers.

Further information regarding immunisation is given in the timetable of clinics, and in the section of this report dealing with infectious diseases.

(c) SCABIES TREATMENT.—The special clinic for the treatment of persons suffering from scabies has continued its work in premises at the rear of "The Cedars," Church Street, Epsom. The work is carried out by or under the supervision of a general trained State-registered nurse, and has undoubtedly been effective in its results. The function of the clinic is essentially treatment, and patients are not accepted unless referred by a medical practitioner. Emphasis is laid on the importance of prophylactic treatment for close contacts.

The facilities of the clinic are open to the residents of the Leatherhead Urban District, whose Council undertake a proportionate share in the costs of the establishment. During the year 507 persons attended, of whom 166 were Leatherhead residents. These figures compare with an attendance of 559 in the previous year, including 108 from Leatherhead.

The clinic has also been used in assisting persons to rid themselves of infestation by head or body louse. Experience suggests that body louse infestation is rare in this district; head louse infestation is a more common occurrence, usually detected by the health visitors at the medical inspections of school children.

(d) **VENEREAL DISEASES.**—The Surrey County Council is the authority responsible for the administration of matters dealing with the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of Venereal Diseases.

(e) **BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE.**—The South London Blood Transfusion Depot, situated at Benhill Avenue, Sutton, Surrey (telephone number Vigilant 0068) has a day and night service for the issuing of blood for transfusion purposes. This can be obtained by medical practitioners on application direct to them.

A time-table of clinics available is set out below:

<i>Ante-natal Clinic</i>	... Epsom County Hospital.	Monday and Thursday at 1.30 p.m.
	Ewell Court House, Kingston Road, Ewell.	1st, 3rd and 5th Thursdays in the month at 1.30 p.m.
<i>Child Welfare Clinics</i>	... 44, Waterloo Road, Epsom.	Monday and Wednesday 2—4 p.m.
	Ewell Court House, Kingston Road, Ewell.	Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at 1.30—4 p.m.
	Jubilee Institute, Malden Road, Worcester Park.	Monday and Thursday at 1.30 p.m.
	Priory Crescent, North Cheam.	Monday and Thursday at 1.30 p.m.
	Parochial Rooms, Malden Road, Cheam ...	Wednesday at 1.30 p.m.
	"Tanhurst," Rosebery Road, Epsom Downs.	1st and 3rd Wednesdays in the month at 1.30 p.m.
<i>General School Medical Minor Ailments Clinics</i>	44, Waterloo Road, Epsom.	Wednesdays 9.30—12 a.m.
	Ewell Court House, Kingston Road, Ewell.	Tuesdays 9.30 a.m.
<i>Scabies Treatment Clinic</i>	"The Cedars," Church Street, Epsom.	By appointment only.
<i>Chest Clinic</i>	... 44, Waterloo Road, Epsom.	Thursday 2 p.m. Every 3rd Thursday in the month at 5.30 p.m.
<i>Venereal Diseases Clinics</i>	St. Helier Hospital, Wrythe Lane, Carshalton.	Males: Mondays 5—7 p.m. Females: Wednesday 5—7 p.m.
	County Hospital, Wolverton Avenue, Kingston-upon-Thames.	Fridays 1.30—3.30 p.m. Females: Thursday 5—7 p.m.
(And at the Out-patient Departments of many London Hospitals.)		
<i>Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics</i>	44, Waterloo Road, Epsom.	By appointment on application to Medical Officer of Health or Health Visitor.
	Ewell Court House, Kingston Road, Ewell.	

### HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

(a) **GENERAL AND MATERNITY.**—The Epsom and Ewell Cottage Hospital is a voluntary hospital with a total of 40 beds, including 6 private beds, and provides for medical, surgical and abnormal midwifery cases. Normal midwifery cases are not admitted. The Hospital also maintains Out-Patient, Massage and X-Ray Departments.

The Epsom County Hospital is under the control of the Surrey County Council and has accommodation for more than 300 patients. It



has been modernised within the past few years and every class of case is accepted for treatment, including normal midwifery cases.

(b) **INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**—With the exception of smallpox, patients suffering from acute infectious disease requiring isolation and treatment in hospital are admitted to the Cuddington Isolation Hospital, situated on Banstead Downs. This hospital is administered by the Cuddington Joint Hospital Board, composed of representatives from the five constituent local authorities.

Accommodation for cases of smallpox is provided by the Surrey County Council in the Clandon Smallpox Hospital.

The Surrey County Council is responsible for the provision of institutional treatment for persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

### 3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA. WATER.

That part of the district constituting the parish of Epsom is supplied by water from the Council's undertaking. The water is obtained from deep wells, borings and adits in the chalk situated in East Street, and is chlorinated before distribution. No softening is carried out. Frequent bacteriological samples and chemical samples of raw and treated water have been taken under the direction of the Borough Water Engineer. The results show that the raw water and the water pumped to supply have been of excellent quality.

Ewell and the greater part of Cuddington are supplied by the Sutton District Water Company with a softened water derived from wells in the chalk situated at Cheam, Sutton and Woodmansterne. Frequent samples have been taken at domestic premises in this area, and results found to be satisfactory. Copies of analytical results have also been received at regular intervals of samples taken by the Company's officials.

For reference, details are set out of typical results of chemical analyses of samples taken in the areas of supply of the Borough Water Undertaking and of the Sutton District Water Company.

#### CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER 100,000.

##### BOROUGH OF EPSOM AND EWELL WATER UNDERTAKING.

Reaction pH Neutral	...	7.1	Free Carbonic Acid	...	2.6
Electric Conductivity at 20°C.	...	470	Total Solids, dried at 180°C.	...	31.5
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	1.3	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	23.0
Hardness: Total	...	26.0	Temporary	21.0	Permanent 5.0
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	0.44	Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	Absent
Free Ammonia	...	0.0000	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	—
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	0.0000	Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	—
Oxygen Absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C.	...	0.000			
Iron	...	0.010			
Metals—Zinc	...	0.1	Other metals absent.		

#### CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER 100,000.

##### SUTTON DISTRICT WATER COMPANY.

Total Solids (dried at 120°C.)	...	26.0	Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.	...	0.015
Combined Chlorine (as Cl)	...	2.10	Lead or Copper	...	Nil
equivalent to Sodium Chloride (NaCl)	...	3.47	Temporary Hardness (equivalent to CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	...	7.0
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	...	1.04	Permanent Hardness (equivalent to CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	...	4.0
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	...	Traces present	Total Hardness (equivalent to CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	...	11.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	0.0004			
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	0.0004			

A number of houses in the northern part of the area are supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board and one cottage on the south-west outskirts of Epsom by the East Surrey Water Company.

One house only in the district is reported to be dependent on a stand-pipe for its supply.

Three houses obtain water for domestic purposes from wells or by the conservation of rain water.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Sewage from the Borough is dealt with at Works situated at Hook Road, Epsom, and off Ruxley Lane, Ewell.

The sewage from Epsom (including the London County Council Institutions) is delivered to the Hook Road Works, where part is treated by the Simplex Aeration Plant. The remainder gravitates to or is pumped and distributed over the land, passing finally through contact beds, storm water tanks being brought into operation during heavy flows. The whole of the effluent drains to a tributary of the River Hogsmill and amounts to about 1,600,000 gallons per day dry weather flow.

Sewage from Ewell and Cuddington (other than from a small area which discharges by arrangement to the Sutton and Cheam Works) gravitates to the Ruxley Works. From the West Ewell district sewage is pumped to a balancing tank where it combines with sewage from Chessington within the Borough of Surbiton. Treatment is by settling tanks, percolating filters and contact beds and finally through humus tanks. Sludge is dealt with on sludge drying beds and storm water by a storm water tank. The whole of the effluent flows to the River Hogsmill, the dry weather flow being approximately 940,000 gallons per day.

Auxiliary treatment plant was constructed at Hook Road Works to treat the increased flow from the London County Council Hospitals due to war-time conditions. The plant consists of a small electric pumping station and two rectangular settling tanks. Additional treatment plant was also constructed at the Ruxley Works for treating sewage and process waste from certain Government buildings which were erected at Chessington during the war period.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The condition of the Hogsmill stream, as a result of the heavy discharge into it of strong effluents from two sewage works in the district, was far from satisfactory. Permanent improvement is not likely to be obtained until a major reorganisation is possible in dealing with the sewage from the Borough, such as is planned under the Hogsmill Valley Joint Sewerage Scheme. Unfortunately, this scheme appears to have made little progress during the year. Complaints of the offensive condition of the stream were received during the year from residents living near the stream.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) COLLECTION OF REFUSE.—It has not been possible for the Council to return to its pre-war custom of arranging a weekly collection of house refuse. Refuse is therefore left in bins on private premises longer than is desirable, and frequent complaints have been received of this and of overloading of bins. These conditions have contributed to the undoubted increase in rats and flies in the district. The latter pest has also been encouraged by the numerous receptacles distributed throughout the district for the collection of pig food. Clearly this form of salvage must continue while the food shortage lasts, but its discontinuance in its present form will be one of the advantages of a return to more normal conditions.

(b) DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.—Disposal of household and trade refuse continues to be partly by incineration at the Epsom Sewage Works, and partly by tipping at the disused brick works in East Street. An important advantage of the latter system is the reclamation of useless land, which if left would tend to become a permanent eyesore and nuisance. It cannot be denied, however, that the Council's tip has been unpopular with many residents in its vicinity, particularly by reason of its encouragement of crickets and flies. Help and advice has been given on many occasions to householders. Complaints have been brought to the attention of the Borough Engineer, who has arranged for disinfection work to be carried out which, on the whole, has been successful.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

A classified statement of the number of premises visited, the defects or nuisances discovered, and the action and the result of action taken in regard to these will be found in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

## SHOPS.

During the year ten shops were inspected under the Shops Act, 1934. Only a few minor offences were found which were attended to after verbal notice.

## CAMPING SITES.

There are no recognised camping sites within the Borough.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Towards the end of the year complaints were received concerning the nuisance caused to residents in the vicinity of the Epsom Gas Works by the emission of smoke and dust from the retort house at certain intervals.

These Works, which were apparently considered obsolete, had been out of use for a number of years, but owing to the fuel emergency and difficulty in maintaining plants at other manufacturing stations, the Company found it necessary to put them into operation again.



Initially, the smoke nuisance caused was due in part to the plant not having been used for some years, and the comparative inexperience of the workmen. Some improvement has been made and further steps are being taken to reduce as far as possible the amount of smoke and dust emitted, but in this type of Works, which are considerably out-of-date, it is not practicable to eliminate entirely the cause for complaint.

The premises are being kept under observation and further steps will be taken if the amount of smoke or fumes emitted is sufficiently serious to be regarded as a public health nuisance.

No other complaints were received during the year requiring action under the Smoke Abatement Act.

### SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

The Municipal Baths are situated in East Street, Epsom, and comprise a covered Swimming Bath (convertible into a Hall), Turkish, Foam and Slipper Baths, and a Café.

There is one privately owned Swimming Pool in the Borough open to the general public. The pool is equipped with plant for continuous filtration and chlorination.

The other Bathing Pools in the Borough are provided in connection with Schools and Clubs and are not open to the general public.

### ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Eleven houses were dealt with for bug infestation. Disinfestation was carried out by means of spraying with an insecticide, the work being done by the Sanitary Inspectors in co-operation with the respective owners of the premises.

### MOSQUITO CONTROL.

Continuing the practice of former years, control measures were carried out in Wilmerhatch Lane area. Very few complaints of nuisance from mosquitoes were received following the treatment of the ponds and pools.

### SCHOOLS.

Forty-one inspections and visits by the Sanitary Inspectors were made during the year to schools in the Borough, including private schools, with regard to sanitary accommodation. In several cases repairs to drainage and sanitary fittings were found necessary. At one private school additional sanitary accommodation was provided, and considerable alterations were in progress at the end of the year at the Church House, Epsom, in order to use the premises as a primary school.

There are approximately 25 private schools in the Borough.

### INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

One hundred and sixty-seven inspections and re-inspections were made during the year to 68 factories with mechanical power and 8 factories without mechanical power. The general sanitary conditions found were satisfactory, but the following is a summary of defects and infringements discovered. In most cases the matters were attended to after verbal notice, but written notice was necessary in 6 instances.

#### DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES.

Want of cleanliness ... ..	11
Sanitary accommodation unsuitable or defective ... ..	17
Other offences ... ..	12

## 4.—HOUSING.

I.—*Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:*

(1)	(a)	Total number inspected	...	...	...	316
	(b)	Number of inspections made	...	...	...	434
(2)	(a)	Inspected under Housing Acts	...	...	...	6
	(b)	Number of inspections made	...	...	...	30
(3)		Number found unfit	...	...	...	Nil
(4)		Number found not to be in all respects fit	...	...	...	6

II.—*Remedy of defects:*

		Number of houses rendered fit	...	...	...	6
--	--	-------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	---

III.—*Action under Statutory Powers:*

(a)		Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	Nil
(b)		Proceedings under Public Health Acts :				
	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses	...	...	...	6
	(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—				
	(a)	By owners	...	...	...	6
	(b)	By Local Authority	...	...	...	Nil
(c)		Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	Nil
(d)		Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	Nil

The observations of the Chief Sanitary Inspector with regard to the inspection of houses, overcrowding and "Squatters" will be found in his report.

## REHOUSING.

Number of new houses erected, certified or inhabited :—

(a)		Permanent houses :				
	(1)	By the Local Authority	...	...	...	28
	(2)	By private enterprise	...	...	...	40
						—
						68
						—
(b)		Temporary houses:				
	(1)	Prefabricated houses	...	...	...	204
	(2)	Hutments	...	...	...	9 families.
						—
						213
						—
(c)		Converted properties :				
	(1)	By Local Authority	...	...	...	25
	(2)	By private enterprise	...	...	...	26
						—
						51
						—
(d)		Emergency accommodation	...	...	...	44
		Rest Centre	...	...	...	2
						—
						46
						—

## 5.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### (A) MILK SUPPLY.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector's report contains particulars of the number of cowkeepers and dairymen registered and of the retailers supplying milk from premises within the area.

**MILK SAMPLING.**—During the year 69 samples of milk were taken from producers and retail purveyors in the Borough and submitted for bacteriological examination.

The following is a summary of the samples taken and result of tests applied :

Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) ... ..	3
Pasteurised ... ..	37
Heat Treated ... ..	14
Sterilised ... ..	3
Ordinary Milk (untreated) ... ..	12
Total ... ..	69

Summary of results of tests:—

	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
T.T. Pasteurised ... ..	3	—	3	—
Pasteurised... ..	33	4	36	1
Heat Treated ... ..	13	1	14	—
Sterilized ... ..	3	—	3	—
Ordinary Milk ... ..	12	—	(Test not applied)	
(untreated)				
	64	5	56	1

From the result of these tests it will be seen that the majority of samples were satisfactory.

In every case where an unsatisfactory result was obtained, steps were taken to ascertain the cause and this was followed up by repeat sampling.

### (B) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There is no Ministry of Food slaughter-house in the area, but the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report contains information regarding the inspection of animals following emergency slaughter, and details of unsound food surrendered and destroyed.

### ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The Surrey County Council continue to administer the Sections of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, dealing with the adulteration of food. I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for the information that a total of 44 samples for analysis were taken in this district by his staff. These included 23 samples of milk, 5 of sausages, or sausage meat, 3 of spirits, and 13 of miscellaneous articles. All the samples of spirits taken were found to be adulterated or deteriorated and proceedings were instituted in two cases with subsequent convictions.

## 6.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

### (1) NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Table IV shows the total of the various infectious diseases notified during 1946, classified according to age and sex, together with the number of cases removed to isolation hospital, and the total number of deaths, if any, from the disease. Table V shows the number of cases notified from the Epsom County Hospital and the London County Council Hospitals in the district. Comparison of these tables indicates that the presence of the institutions has a considerable effect on incidence of certain infectious diseases. Thus, the great majority of the cases of dysentery and diphtheria notified were connected with L.C.C. hospitals, and 31 of the 32 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were patients in the Epsom County Hospital; 21 being normally resident outside the district.

**SMALLPOX.**—No case of smallpox was notified during the year. No primary vaccination or re-vaccination was performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

**SCARLET FEVER.**—Sixty-eight cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year, compared with seventy notified during the previous year. The case rate per 1,000 population was 1.00 compared with 1.38 for England and Wales.

Of the sixty-seven cases occurring in private houses, nineteen were nursed at home, this being equivalent to 27.9% of the total cases notified.

Twelve patients were admitted to Cuddington Hospital suspected to be suffering from scarlet fever in whom the diagnosis was not confirmed. There were no deaths from the disease, and generally the disease continued to be of the mild character which has been noted for some years past.

**DIPHTHERIA.**—Seven cases of diphtheria were notified during the year 1946 compared with ten cases in the previous year. The case rate per 1,000 population was 0.10, as against 0.28 per 1,000 population for England and Wales. There were no deaths.

Five of the cases notified were adults from an L.C.C. hospital in the district, one being a patient and four members of the staff. The latter were admitted to Cuddington Isolation Hospital for treatment. There was no history of previous immunisation in any of these cases.

The two cases occurring in private residences were both pupils of a school in a neighbouring district. Both had been immunised some years previously.

In addition four suspected cases of diphtheria were admitted to the isolation hospital in whom the diagnosis was not confirmed.

Two persons were admitted as carriers of diphtheria bacilli, one of whom was a member of the staff of the L.C.C. hospital in which cases of diphtheria were occurring.

TABLE IV.

Disease	Cases Notified.																Total both sexes	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Deaths
	Under 1 yr.		1 to 3		3 to 5		5 to 10		10 to 15		15 to 25		25 and over		All ages				
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F			
Cholera and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	4	1	4	1	18	22	5	9	1	2	—	1	32	36	68	49	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	1	—	2	5	7	6	—
Crouping Cough ...	1	6	9	13	10	15	7	20	4	4	—	—	—	—	31	58	89	1	—
Measles ...	1	2	18	20	20	27	88	75	10	8	3	3	3	3	143	138	281	15	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	2	2	2	2	7	8	—	2	2	—	21	34	34	48	82	—	26
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	3	12	27	15	30	45	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	11	12	10	15	25	4	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	27	—	32	32	—	—
Otitis Media ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Totals ...	2	8	33	37	36	45	122	126	21	25	8	17	48	104	269	363	632	77	26

TABLE V.—CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED BY INSTITUTIONS.

Disease.	L.C.C. Institutions.	Epsom County Hospital.	Horton E.M.S. Hospital.	Total.
Dysentery ...	35	—	4	39
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	—	2	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia...	—	31	—	31
Diphtheria ...	5	—	—	5
Erysipelas ...	4	1	4	9
Measles ...	—	1	8	9
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	1	1
Totals ...	44	35	17	96

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.—Progress has been made during the year with the Council's scheme for immunisation against diphtheria. Clinics are held at regular intervals at the Health Centres in Waterloo Road, Epsom, and Ewell Court House, Ewell.

During the year 1946, 807 children are known to have completed primary immunisation and 924 to have received secondary treatment. Of the former, 593 were aged between one and two years, representing 72% of the births registered in the district during the previous year. Probably many children are treated privately, or in other districts, about whom information is not received.

It is estimated that 2,500 children under the age of five years and 5,932 aged five to 14 years have now received immunisation treatment, equivalent to percentages of 54.7 and 77 respectively of the estimated population in these age groups.



Active immunisation against diphtheria has now been in operation in the Borough since 1935 and can claim a part in the reduction of the incidence and mortality rates which has occurred. The downward tendency of these rates, particularly when they relate to private residents, can be seen by referring to Table VI. The ideal is for every child to receive a primary treatment of two injections at about the age of one year, with further single injections at five and ten years. It is not claimed even with such treatment that absolute immunisation will be attained by every child, but there is clear evidence that the risk of an untreated child contracting diphtheria is four times as great as that of an immunised child, and that the risk of death is nearly thirty times as great.

TABLE VI.—INCIDENCE OF DIPHTHERIA IN THE BOROUGH OF EPSOM AND EWEIL, 1934-1946.

Year.	No. of Cases Notified.	Incidence Rate per 1,000 Population.	No. of Deaths.	Mortality Rate per 1,000 Population.	No. of Primary Treatments In each Year.
1934 ... ..	34 (1)	0.78	3	0.06	—
1935 ... ..	13 (1)	0.29	—	0.00	167
1936 ... ..	20 (1)	0.39	—	0.00	500
1937 ... ..	15 (3)	0.26	—	0.00	520
1938 ... ..	17 (3)	0.29	1	0.02	597
1939 ... ..	8 (1)	0.13	—	0.00	370
1940 ... ..	6 (3)	0.09	—	0.00	463
1941 ... ..	15 (5)	0.24	—	0.00	2654
1942 ... ..	11 (6)	0.18	1	0.02	1727
1943 ... ..	9 (—)	0.15	—	0.00	1117
1944 ... ..	6 (6)	0.10	—	0.00	635
1945 ... ..	10 (6)	0.16	1	0.02	853
1946 ... ..	7 (5)	0.10	—	0.00	807

Figures in parentheses denote that patient was in a residential institution.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

The names of one hundred and four persons were added to the tuberculosis register during the year. They include sixty-nine names of persons already domiciled in the Borough, thirty-three of persons who came to live in the district from other areas in which they had already been notified and two of persons who died from tuberculosis without previous notification. Ninety of the notifications related to the pulmonary form of the disease, and fourteen to non-pulmonary. Sixty-seven of the persons affected were between the ages of 20 and 45 years. Nine deaths occurred from pulmonary tuberculosis, representing an annual death rate of 0.13 per 1,000 population. Three deaths were caused by non-pulmonary tuberculosis, with a death rate of 0.04, giving a total tuberculosis death rate of 0.17, compared with a rate of 0.54 for England and Wales. An analysis into types of disease and age groups is to be found in Table VII.

For comparative purposes figures relating to the notification of and mortality from tuberculosis between the years 1938-46 are set out in Table VIII. The notification figures are those for persons domiciled in the district at the time of diagnosis of the disease. They show a

deterioration on the 1938 figures, which were themselves above the average of several previous years. No doubt the cause for some of this increase can be found in the anxious and fatiguing conditions of the war, in the difficulty of maintaining an accustomed diet scale, particularly in regard to fats, and in overcrowding. It is indeed remarkable that the setback has not been more severe. An increasing incidence rate may also reflect an improved system of diagnosis, as for example, in the extended use of radiography. Mass miniature radiography has been used extensively in the services and in factories during the past three years, and it now remains to adapt the system to reach the whole adult and adolescent population.

It is therefore of interest to record the results of the visit of the Mass Radiography Unit of the Surrey County Council in July :

Total number examined ... .. 5,123

divided into sex and age groups—

<i>Age Group.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
14	246	299
15—24	617	1,006
25—34	343	540
35—44	478	673
45—59	329	431
60 and over	89	72
	<hr/> 2,102 <hr/>	<hr/> 3,021 <hr/>

Number recalled for large film examination ... ..	282
Number recalled for clinical examination ... ..	116
Number with non-tuberculous pulmonary conditions ... ..	24
Number with cardio-vascular conditions ... ..	7
Number of previously known cases of pulmonary tuberculosis	3
Number of newly discovered cases of pulmonary tuberculosis	41
	or .8% of total examined
(12 required hospital or sanatorium and 29 are under observation at chest clinics)	
Number of cases refusing further action after miniature film	1

The mortality figures are based on all deaths from tuberculosis assigned to the district and, for reasons given in the section of this report dealing with vital statistics, those for 1939 and subsequent years are not exactly comparable with pre-war years.

Comparing the war years themselves, a very definite rise occurred in 1940 and 1941, followed by a fall to a level at which the figures remained constant until this year, when a further fall has occurred. The total tuberculosis death rate of 0.18 is the lowest yet recorded in this district. Important progress can be recorded in the effort which the Council is making to improve the living conditions of badly housed families with a member suffering from tuberculosis in a communicable form. The principle on which the Council is proceeding is that it is essential to safeguard, as far as possible, other members of the family, particularly children, from heavy infection under bad conditions, if the

TABLE VII.

		Primary Notifications Relating to Persons Already Resident in The Borough. *				Secondary Notifications of Persons Already Notified in Other Districts and Now Resident in The Borough.				Deaths.			
		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
1 to 5...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 10...	...	—	1	2	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 15...	...	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 20...	...	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 to 25...	...	5	3	—	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 35...	...	11	3	1	1	4	9	—	1	2	1	—	—
35 to 45...	...	11	4	—	—	4	5	—	—	4	1	—	1
45 to 55...	...	8	1	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
55 to 65...	...	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 years and over	...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	...	44	15	8	4	14	17	1	1	6	3	2	1

\* Including inmates of institutions, whose notifications are not transferable.

TABLE VIII.—TUBERCULOSIS INCIDENCE AND MORTALITY.

Year.	Population.	Total Primary Notifications.	Rate per 1,000 Population.	Total Deaths.	Death Rates per 1,000 Population.
1938 ...	59,930	58	0.97	16	0.27
1939 ...	62,960	53	0.84	27	0.42
1940 ...	63,190	58	0.92	38	0.60
1941 ...	61,990	80	1.29	41	0.66
1942 ...	61,130	74	1.21	27	0.43
1943 ...	60,650	69	1.14	31	0.49
1944 ...	60,270	79	1.31	26	0.45
1945 ...	62,830	75	1.19	29	0.45
1946 ...	67,770	71	1.05	12	0.18

disease is to be eradicated. It is the non-infected member of the family for whom priority in rehousing has been granted, rather than the patient.

During the year twenty-six families in this category have been allocated houses, either of a permanent or temporary type, of whom eighteen have already been rehoused.

The Epsom, Leatherhead and District Tuberculosis Care Committee has continued its work with energy during the year under the chairmanship of Mrs. A. Winter. The secretary of the Committee is Miss Linford, who is also the Surrey County Council's Care Almoner in the area, and the treasurer is Lt.-Col. H. W. Lucy, O.B.E., T.D., manager of the Epsom branch of the Westminster Bank. Members of the Committee include representatives of the Borough Council, the Leatherhead Urban District Council, associations and societies interested in social welfare, and officers engaged in work connected with health, welfare and relief. Thus the Committee is in a good position to help solve the special problems of the tuberculous person and the household to which he belongs. Much valuable work has been done, and will remain to be



done in the future. Under the National Health Service Act the local health authority, in this case the Surrey County Council, is precluded from making monetary payments (except by way of remuneration for work performed) to sick persons, and there are times when advances in cash are of great importance in the rehabilitation of the tuberculars. At the same time the local health authority is required to make arrangements for the care and after-care of sick persons, including those who are tuberculous, and is given permission to carry out these duties through an established care committee acting under the direction of the local health authority. The care committee can make monetary payments when necessary, provided that these come from funds voluntarily contributed. Hence the need for continued strong financial support of this committee.

**SEWER RAT CONTROL.**—The treatment of sewers is being carried out in conformity with Circulars N.S.11 and 13 from the Ministry of Food Infestation Division.

The Rodent Officer's Assistant, with the help of sewer men from the Borough Engineer's department, is working systematically through the sewers by test baiting 10% of the manholes, and following up with poisoned-bait treatment of any sections of sewers found to be infested.

The following is a summary of the work which had been carried out by the end of the year :

Number of sections of sewers treated	...	...	...	...	...	7
Total number of manholes test baited	...	...	...	...	...	231
Result of test baiting :						
Number of complete takes	...	...	...	...	...	47
„ „ partial	...	...	...	...	...	70
„ „ no takes	...	...	...	...	...	114
Total	...	...	...	...	...	231

Total number of manholes poison baited	...	...	...	...	...	117
Number of complete takes	...	...	...	...	...	14
„ „ partial	...	...	...	...	...	97
„ „ no takes	...	...	...	...	...	6
Total	...	...	...	...	...	117

## MORTUARY.

Sixty-one bodies have been admitted to the mortuary and 60 post-mortems held during the year. The number includes ten bodies from outside districts, fees amounting to £5 0s. 0d., being received for the use of the post-mortem room.

## SANITARY CONVENIENCES ON EPSOM DOWNS.

At a meeting of the Public Health Committee held on the 19th September, 1946, I submitted a full report on the question of sanitary conveniences on Epsom Downs, and referred particularly to the provision of temporary conveniences for use of the general public attending race meetings.

The Committee decided to adjourn consideration of the matter for the time being.

## BOROUGH OF EPSOM AND EWELL

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**Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector  
for the Year 1946.**

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT.,  
WEST HILL HOUSE,  
WEST HILL,  
EPSOM.

September, 1947.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
Borough of Epsom and Ewell.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit herewith my Tenth Annual Report on the work of the Sanitary Inspectors.

The report is compiled in accordance with directions of the Ministry of Health and as required by Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

During the year under review 6,313 inspections and visits have been made by the Sanitary Inspectors. This figure shows a considerable increase compared with previous years, but unfortunately it cannot be accepted as an indication that the actual work carried out as a result of these inspections has increased to the same degree. The shortage of building labour and materials has in many cases caused considerable delay in dealing with sanitary notices, making it necessary for repeated visits and enquiries to ensure attention to urgent housing and sanitary defects.

The scheme for licensing civil building work for the control of building labour and materials has assisted to a large extent, as it has limited work to essential repairs and maintenance. Three hundred and fifteen applications for licences were referred from the Borough Engineer, the licensing officer, for inspection by the Sanitary Inspectors to give an opinion as to whether the proposed work was considered essential.

In addition, 214 certificates of essentiality for sanitary fittings and materials were granted by my department, a visit by a Sanitary Inspector being necessary in each case.

The shortage of houses continues to be acute, and although there are signs of an increasing number of new houses being built, progress is slow and little can be done at present to alleviate overcrowding or improve the standard of existing houses.

The list of unsound food surrendered and the number of food premises inspected during the year show that much attention has been given to the supervision of foodstuffs in the Borough, and the summary of reports on milk samples gives an assurance that the milk supplied in the district is of a good standard of cleanliness.

Particulars of routine work carried out, including the investigation of complaints, disinfection, drainage, rat infestation, etc., are given in detail in my report. Every effort has been made to ensure that essential sanitary matters received proper attention.

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the staff of the department for their assistance and co-operation, and particularly to Dr. Cyrus Ive, the Medical Officer of Health, for his continued help and kindly consideration.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

WM. H. C. HAGGER, M.R.San.I., F.S.I.A.,  
*Chief Sanitary Inspector.*

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

## SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS MADE BY THE SANITARY INSPECTORS AND PARTICULARS OF OTHER DEPARTMENTAL WORK.

	<i>No. of Inspections and Visits.</i>	
Inspections under Public Health Act, 1936 ... ..	374	
Re-inspections under Public Health Act, 1936 ... ..	484	
Inspections under Housing Act, 1936 ... ..	116	
Re-inspections under Housing Act, 1936 ... ..	172	
Visits to work in progress ... ..	483	
Visits in connection with Infectious Disease ... ..	328	
Visits in connection with Overcrowding ... ..	34	
Visits in connection with Complaints ... ..	515	
Inspections and visits regarding drainage ... ..	537	
Inspections and visits regarding cesspools ... ..	29	
Number of drainage tests carried out ... ..	120	—
Visits regarding rats and mice infestation (not including visits of rat-catcher) ... ..	140	
Visits regarding vermin and insect pests ... ..	44	
Number of verminous premises disinfested ... ..	12	—
APPLICATIONS FOR BUILDING LICENCES :—		
Number referred from Borough Engineer ... ..	315	
Number of visits in connection therewith ... ..		764
CERTIFICATES OF ESSENTIALITY :—		
Number issued by the Department ... ..	214	
Number of visits in connection therewith ... ..		302
Inspections of Tents, Vans and Sheds ... ..		19
Inspections of Vacant Lands and Dumps ... ..		30
Inspections of Common Yards and Passages ... ..		3
Inspections of Rivers and Streams ... ..		14
Inspections of Stables and Piggeries ... ..		24
Inspections of Public Conveniences ... ..		7
Inspections of Swimming Pools ... ..		14
Inspections of Theatres, Cinemas, etc. ... ..		4
Inspections of Schools ... ..		41
Inspections of Offices ... ..		7
Number of Smoke Observations ... ..		8
Factories Act, 1937.		
	<i>No. on Register.</i>	
Inspections of Factories (with power) ... ..	102	110
Inspections of Factories (without power) ... ..	26	37
Inspections of Workplaces ... ..	8	7
Inspections of Outworkers' Rooms ... ..		13
Shops Acts, 1912—1938.		
Inspections of Shops (Shops Act, 1934) ... ..		11
Inspections of Shops (Shops Act, 1912-38, Houses, etc.) ... ..		6
MEAT AND FOODS. Inspections and visits to :—		
Bakehouses ... ..	17	69
Slaughterhouses ... ..	1	16
Butchers' Shops ... ..	36	103
Fishmongers and Poulterers ... ..		27
Fried Fish Shops ... ..		21
Greengrocers and Fruiterers ... ..		30
Grocers and Provision Shops ... ..		73
Cowsheds ... ..	4	16

No. of  
Inspections  
and Visits.  
No. on  
Register.

MEAT AND FOODS Inspections and visits to (Continued):—

Dairies and Milk Shops ... ..	12	33
Ice-cream Premises ... ..	48	100
Manufacture or preparation of preserved food ... ..		32
Restaurants and Dining Rooms ... ..		67
Other Food Premises ... ..		8
Public Market and Food Stalls ... ..		6
Visits regarding unsound food ... ..		274
Number of milk samples taken ... ..		69
Milk bottles and churn rinses sampled ... ..		3
Number of water samples taken from main supplies (domestic) ... ..		11
Number of water samples taken from tanks and wells (domestic) ... ..		5
Number of water samples taken from rivers and streams ... ..		5
Number of water samples taken from swimming pools ... ..		11
Miscellaneous visits and inspections not included above		525
Total ... ..		6181

NUISANCES AND DEFECTS.

Number of premises where nuisances or defects found ... ..	461
Number of nuisances or defects found ... ..	1668

NOTICES.

Number of Notices served under the following Acts:—

Public Health Act, 1936 (Statutory) ... ..	7
Public Health Act, 1936 (Informal) ... ..	246
Housing Act, 1936 (Statutory) ... ..	—
Housing Act, 1936 (Informal) ... ..	1
Factories Act, 1937 ... ..	10
Shops Acts, 1912-1938 ... ..	3
Food and Drugs Act, 1938 ... ..	3

	270
Number of Notices complied with ... ..	214

Number of Notices outstanding at end of year ... ..	56
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COMPLAINTS.—The following is a summary of the complaints received during the year. All complaints were investigated and steps taken to ensure abatement of nuisances found to exist:—

Insanitary condition of premises ... ..	191
Flooding ... ..	6
Overcrowding ... ..	9
Choked or defective drains ... ..	118
Defective dustbins ... ..	21
Offensive accumulations ... ..	27
Pig waste storage bins ... ..	4
Keeping of animals or poultry ... ..	14
Rats or mice infestation ... ..	427
Nuisance from flies and other insect pests ... ..	16
Vermin ... ..	13
Smoke nuisance ... ..	5
Offensive smells ... ..	38
Unsound food ... ..	24
Milk supply ... ..	16
Factory and Shops Acts ... ..	3
Miscellaneous ... ..	62

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES ABATED, DEFECTS REMEDIED AND  
OTHER SANITARY MATTERS ATTENDED TO.

Choked drains cleared ... ..	108
Drains repaired or relaid ... ..	42
Inspection chambers built or repaired ... ..	51
W.C.'s repaired or renewed ... ..	109
W.C.'s cleansed ... ..	22
W.C.'s flushing cisterns repaired or renewed ... ..	23
W.C.'s, new or additional ... ..	41
Soil, vent pipes or F.A.I.'s repaired or renewed ... ..	25
Waste pipes repaired or renewed ... ..	25
New gullies provided ... ..	48
New sinks or wash basins provided or renewed ... ..	120
Water service pipes repaired or renewed ... ..	25
Cesspools repaired or emptied ... ..	4
Cesspools abolished and drainage connected to sewer ... ..	3
New dustbins provided ... ..	46
Yard paving provided or repaired ... ..	12
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt ... ..	14
Roofs repaired ... ..	53
Eaves guttering or rainwater pipes repaired or renewed ... ..	28
Walls (external) rendered, re-pointed or repaired ... ..	13
Walls replastered or repaired ... ..	155
Ceilings replastered or repaired ... ..	199
Walls and ceilings cleansed and redecorated ... ..	462
Floors repaired or renewed ... ..	131
Fireplaces or ranges repaired or renewed ... ..	32
Stairs repaired or renewed ... ..	10
Doors repaired or renewed ... ..	26
Windows repaired or renewed ... ..	54
Sashcords provided or renewed ... ..	22
Dampness remedied ... ..	39
Coppers provided or repaired ... ..	3
Food stores ventilated, repaired or cleansed ... ..	4
Houses disinfected after infectious disease ... ..	70
Houses disinfected after Tuberculosis ... ..	8
Disinfection on request (cost defrayed) ... ..	25
Disinfestation of rooms, etc., for vermin ... ..	19
Rooms, etc., sprayed for flies or other insect pests ... ..	11
Cowsheds and dairies cleansed and limewashed ... ..	10
Bakehouses cleansed ... ..	12
Slaughterhouses, stables or pigsties cleansed ... ..	6
Keeping of animals—nuisances abated ... ..	5
Offensive accumulations removed ... ..	7
Miscellaneous defects remedied ... ..	135

### HOUSING.

Inspection of houses under the Public Health and Housing Acts was limited chiefly to inspections following complaints by occupiers. The return to normal routine house-to-house inspection has not yet been possible.

There is no doubt the general condition of houses is well below the pre-war standard and owing to shortage of labour and materials requests for works of repair are limited to matters of an essential character.

There are also a number of houses in the Borough which, under normal circumstances, would warrant consideration for demolition. It is appreciated that the present time is not opportune for such action, and until considerable progress has been made in the provision of new houses active steps cannot be taken in this direction. Nevertheless, the



condition of some of these old properties is becoming more serious and it is increasingly difficult to deal with the most urgent defects or prevent further deterioration.

## OVERCROWDING.

Until there is a complete census, or a housing survey is carried out in the Borough, the extent of overcrowding cannot be estimated. Cases are only brought to light by inspection on complaint or through applications for housing accommodation.

Several serious cases have been reported to the Public Health Committee during the year and referred to the Housing Committee, with the result that the families concerned have been given priority in housing.

The Housing Committee have also given special consideration to overcrowded cases when dealing with applicants for housing accommodation, but there are still many families who are unavoidably sharing houses and living under overcrowded conditions.

## " SQUATTERS "

During August and September the urgency of the housing problem was demonstrated by the action of people, referred to as " Squatters," who occupied vacant camps and empty houses in various parts of the country without permission or authority.

It was appreciated, and not without sympathy, that their action was prompted by reason of being homeless or living under serious overcrowded conditions. At the same time, it was obvious that any organised attempt against law and order would only lead to further difficulties and could not be supported. Legal action was therefore taken in many cases to enforce them to vacate the premises occupied.

A vacant Ministry of Works camp at Ewell was occupied without authority by five families. The camp was subsequently offered to the Council and accepted for rehousing purposes. Necessary repairs and adaptations were then carried out to provide emergency accommodation for the families already in occupation and other urgent cases on the Council's waiting list.

"Woodcote End House," Epsom, a large private house which had been vacant for some time owing to its very dilapidated condition, was also occupied by five families of " Squatters." In this case the owners obtained an interim injunction against the persons concerned, which was suspended for 14 days to give them an opportunity of finding other accommodation.

Three of the families were subsequently provided with emergency accommodation by the Council, one by the Sutton and Cheam authority, the other family being allowed by the owners to remain in accommodation on the premises to act as caretaker.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—At the end of the year there were 15 entries on the Register of Cowkeepers, Dairymen and Retail Purveyors of Milk as follows :

Cowkeepers (wholesale traders) ... ..	3
„ (and Retail Purveyors) ... ..	1
Retail Purveyors (premises within the Borough) ... ..	6
„ „ (premises outside the Borough) ... ..	5
Total ... ..	15

List of registered premises within the Borough :

## COWSHEDS.

- “ Highfield ” Farm, Epsom.
- “ The Durdans,” Epsom.
- “ Priesthill ” Farm, Ewell.
- “ Ruxley ” Farm, Ewell.

## DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS.

- Joys Dairy, South Street, Epsom.—Bottling Establishment.
- Joys Dairy, West Street, Epsom.—Milkshop.
- H. A. Job, Ltd., 186, Kingston Road, Ewell.—Milkshop & Receiving Depot.
- South Suburban Co-op. Soc. Ltd., Portland Place, Epsom.—Receiving Depot.
- South Suburban Co-op. Soc. Ltd., Dell Lane, Ewell.—Receiving Depot.
- Sutton Creameries, Ltd., 51, The Broadway, Ewell.—Milkshop & Receiving Depot.
- United Dairies, Ltd., Alexandra Road, Epsom.—Receiving Depot.
- United Dairies, Ltd., 107, High Street, Epsom.—Shop.
- United Dairies, Ltd., 14, Upper High Street, Epsom.—Shop.
- United Dairies, Ltd., Manor Green Road, Epsom.—Shop.
- United Dairies, Ltd., High Street, Ewell.—Shop.
- Mrs. Harbottle, 93, Dorking Road, Epsom.—Shop.

The four producers were granted licences by the Surrey County Council for the production and sale of “ Accredited ” milk.

At the end of the year there were approximately 120 milch cows in the Borough exclusive of those kept at the L.C.C. farms.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS, 1936 TO 1945.—The following licences to sell graded milk were granted in 1946 :

Tuberculin Tested (Dealers) ... ..	6
„ „ (Supplementary) ... ..	4
Pasteurised (Pasteurisers) ... ..	2
„ (Dealers) ... ..	8
„ (Supplementary) ... ..	5
Total ... ..	25

Fees amounting to £6 10s. 0d. in respect of these licences were forwarded to the Borough Treasurer.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—There is only one slaughter-house in the Borough which is “ licensed ” under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, but it is not in regular use owing to the Centralised Slaughtering Scheme of the Ministry of Food. Arrangements have been made with local pigkeepers to use this slaughter-house for the occasional slaughter of pigs.



During the year the following were inspected after slaughter :

Under licence from Food Executive Officer ... ..	29 pigs.
Emergency slaughter in connection with case of Swine Fever...	7 pigs.
By request of L.C.C. at the Manor Hospital ... ..	1 heifer.

The carcasses and organs were found satisfactory with exception of three pigs and the heifer, which were diseased and subsequently surrendered for destruction.

**SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.**—One new and ten applications for the renewal of licences to slaughter animals under the above Act were received and considered by the Council. In each case the licence was granted, and the fees, amounting to 12s. (twelve shillings) were forwarded to the Borough Treasurer.

**CONDEMNED MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.**—The following meat and other foods were inspected at shops and food stores within the Borough and found to be unfit for human consumption :

Bacon ... ..	46½ lbs.	Meat and Offal ... ..	373 lbs. 3 ozs.
Sausages ... ..	18 lbs.	Meat (tinned) ... ..	209 tins
Pies ... ..	76 lbs.	Fish ... ..	198 stone
Fishcakes ... ..	12	Fish (tinned) ... ..	177 tins
Fruit (Misc. tinned) ...	108 tins	Fruit—Prunes & Dates	177½ lbs.
Oranges ... ..	270 lbs.	Milk (tinned) ... ..	429 tins
	380	Cheese ... ..	77 lbs.
Butter ... ..	1 lb.	Breakfast Food ... ..	82 packets
Rabbits ... ..	60 lbs		69¾ lbs.
Tinned Vegetables and		Paste ... ..	70 jars
Soups ... ..	233 tins	Jam and Marmalade ...	187 tins & jars
Mustard ... ..	9 tins	Cake and Pudding Mix-	
Syrup ... ..	13 tins	ture ... ..	188 packets
Pickles ... ..	63 jars	Flour ... ..	81 lbs.
Sugar ... ..	8 lbs.	Sweets ... ..	12½ lbs.
Peas ... ..	40 lbs.	Potatoes ... ..	4 cwt.
Frutella Sauce ... ..	96 packets	Cake ... ..	4½ lbs.
Bread ... ..	8 loaves	Spice ... ..	90 packets
Salt ... ..	36 packets	Misc. articles ... ..	42 bottles
Soya Bean Flour ... ..	43 packets	Misc. articles ... ..	13 tins
Misc. articles ... ..	21 jars	Misc. articles ... ..	30 packets

Wherever possible foodstuffs found unfit for human consumption are disposed of for animal feeding (if not diseased) or utilised for other practical purposes to avoid waste.

**BUTCHERS' SHOPS AND STALLS, ETC.**—There are 36 butchers' shops in the Borough which have been periodically inspected. A refrigerator or other means of cold storage is provided at each shop, and 30 of the shops have permanent glass windows to protect the meat from dust, etc., from the highway.

**BAKEHOUSES.**—Sixty-nine inspections have been made of the 17 bakehouses on the register, when cleansing and minor defects were attended to on request.

**OTHER FOOD PREMISES.**—Thirty-two inspections have been made of other premises where food is prepared or sold.

**ICE-CREAM.** — Applications for registration of premises under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were received and approved for the following :

Manufacture and sale of ice-cream ...	...	...	...	...	8
Storage and sale of ice-cream ...	...	...	...	...	40
					<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	48
					<hr/>

ICE-CREAM SAMPLING. — Twelve samples of ice-cream obtained during the year gave the following results :

No.	<i>B. Coli</i> in 1/100 m.l.				Plate count per m.l.
1 ...	...	...	Absent	...	2,270
2 ...	...	...	Present	...	1,000,000
3 ...	...	...	Present	...	198,000
4 ...	...	...	Absent	...	3,400
5 ...	...	...	Absent	...	6,900
6 ...	...	...	Absent	...	116,000
7 ...	...	...	Present	...	147,000
8 ...	...	...	Present	...	1,000,000
9 ...	...	...	Absent	...	600,000
10 ...	...	...	Present	...	127,000
11 ...	...	...	Present	...	1,000,000
12 ...	...	...	Present	...	183,000

Six of the samples were regarded as unsatisfactory. In three cases the ice-cream was manufactured locally and the methods of manufacture were investigated. The remaining three samples were from a supply obtained outside the Borough and the matter was reported to the local authority of the district where it was manufactured.

#### THE RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919, AND INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

A full-time Rodent Officer's Assistant is employed by the Corporation and his work is carried out under the general supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors.

While it is the duty of the occupier of any premises to take such steps as may be necessary for the destruction and prevention of rats and mice, advice and assistance is given to persons who report any infestation or apply for information as to preventive measures. Such advice is based on methods of destruction recommended by the Ministry of Food.

The following is a summary of the work carried out by the Corporation's Rodent Officer's Assistant and particulars of the number of rats caught and destroyed by employees at the Sewage Farm, also on L.C.C. estates in the Borough, where a rat-catcher is employed :

Number of complaints and reports received and investigated during the year	...	...	...	...	...	427
Number of inspections and visits	...	...	...	...	...	1336
"  "  hunts with dogs and ferrets	...	...	...	...	...	102
"  "  cases where poisoned baits used	...	...	...	...	...	332
Number of rats known to have been caught and destroyed by :						
(a) the Corporation's Rodent Officer's Assistant	...	...	...	...	...	821
(b) by employees at Sewage Farm	...	...	...	...	...	180
(c) on L.C.C. premises	...	...	...	...	...	1479
						<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	...	2480
						<hr/>